

***The church is now open during the following times for supervised private prayer:***

**Sunday 12noon - 4.00pm**

One of the clergy is usually available 10.15am - 12noon

**Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm**

*Please follow the directions on social-distancing, hygiene, direction of movement around the building, & seating.*

**The Parish Office will not be open until further notice.**

To arrange Baptisms, Weddings, etc., please contact the clergy - details below.

**All the clergy are available (by phone or email) and our details are as follows:**

#### **CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICERS**

**Rector & Parish Priest**

***(Our Parish is now in vacancy)***

#### **Hon. Assistant Priests**

Revd. Canon Hugh Broad

01452 541078 – Mobile 07928 455674

hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk

Fr Ian Robb

01452 676059 – Mobile 07962 469250

iobb925@gmail.com

Fr. Gordon Ripley

01452 883399

gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com

Fr. Michael Garland

01452 720872

michaelgarland368@btinternet.com

The Revd Ann Morris

rev.ann@btinternet.com

**Keep up to date** with the latest Church news by looking at our parish website or at our Facebook pages, or find us on "A Church near You".

**"Around the Spire"** : The **MAY issue** is in church, online on our parish website, & on "A Church near You". ***Please take copies to share around!***

Notes for next week's **Newsheet** should be sent to Fr Ian no later than Wednesday evening. (Contact address above.)

**Our church is still open for worship and private prayer - we have received several notes of thanks for remaining open - and we shall continue to observe all the social-distancing & hygiene rules. But we fully understand that if you feel anxious about attending, you may prefer to stay at home.**

## **The Parish Church of St JAMES the APOSTLE**

**&**

## **St MARY MAGDALENE**

**Quedgeley & Kingsway Diocese of Gloucester**



**Sunday 2nd May -  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter:  
Alleluia, Christ is risen!**

**10.30am: The Parish Eucharist**

Celebrant: Fr Michael

Preacher: Fr Ian

#### **Bible readings for today:**

**First Reading.** Acts 8. 26 - 40

The Apostle Phillip encounters an Ethiopian court official - the significance of this meeting lies in the fact that the man was a Gentile.

(Reader: Ian Eve)

**Second Reading.** 1 John 4. 7 - 21

The love of God is personified in Jesus and perfected by his great sacrifice .

(Reader: Lu Pearce)

#### **Alleluia:**

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!.**

**Gospel.** John 15. 1 - 8

Jesus describes himself as the True Vine.

**Intercessions** led by: Jill Robb

#### **Collect for Easter V**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**  
**For the Easter season :**

In joy and hope we pray to the Father.  
That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his  
glorious and life-giving resurrection ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches  
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter:  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to  
one another in Christian love ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work  
or shelter ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease  
through all the world ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the  
sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and  
strengthen them ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,  
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection  
may be raised on the last day ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon  
his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to  
his resurrection,  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,  
so his continual presence in us may raise us to  
eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of St James and St  
Mary Magdalene, and all your saints, we commend  
ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing  
love. AMEN.

Those who have died: Victims of Covid-19;  
those whose anniversary of death occurs at this  
time.  
All who mourn their passing.

Those who are ill: Barbara Ward, John & Pat  
Hall, Shirley Wilce, Wynn Sutch, David James,  
Rod Robinson, Jane & Doug Drakeley

**Worship in St James this week:**  
**See details on page 3.**

**When we are unable to get to St James for our  
Eucharist:**

Fr Dennis McBride offers the Holy Eucharist: go to  
[www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online).

And we can make an act of Spiritual Communion  
as follows  
**“Lord Jesus Christ:** I believe that you are in the  
Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things,  
and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot, at  
this time, receive you in the consecrated Bread  
and Wine of the Eucharist, come spiritually into my  
heart. As though you have already come, I ace you  
and give myself to you; never permit me to be  
separated from you. Amen”

**A Prayer for use now the “Lockdown” is  
easing:**

***Risen Lord, we thank you for all the members  
of our National Health Service - the admin staff  
as well as the doctors, nurses, ambulance  
crews, first responders, and the staff in our  
care homes; strengthen those who give their  
skill and care to return us to health and  
well-being. Guide and prosper the work of all  
who are involved in medical research and  
development, and all who involved in the  
vaccination programme. Teach us never to  
take our health and freedom for granted, and  
keep us ever mindful of the needs of others.  
Through him who is always the resurrection  
and the life Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN .***

**Intercessions on Sundays.** Thank you to all  
those who have helped us to restart our rota; if you  
would like to take part in this ministry, please  
contact Fr Hugh as soon as possible. (*details on  
p.1*)

We are also looking to have **more Readers** for our  
Rota - contact Fr Ian for the Readers' Rota

**Please continue to remember The Gloucester  
FoodBank when you go to buy food. Most of  
our supermarkets have a place where you can  
leave gifts for the Foodbank.**

**From Fr Hugh:** “ ‘Around the Spire’ for May is in  
church today. “**Ordinary and Extraordinary**” -  
What does that mean? Pick up a copy of our  
magazine and all will be revealed!”

## **Three Important Messages from our Churchwardens & P.C.C. Secretary:**

We are looking for some Volunteers to join a sub-committee of the Church Council whose task it will be to compile a "Parish Profile" which will support our advertisement for a new incumbent. The aim is to produce an on-line document containing information and photos of our parish, our church family, our church building, the local schools, and our various activities. We need help from people with I.T. Skills and enthusiasm for this important task! Please contact the churchwardens or secretary - details below.

We also need someone to help tend our small Garden of Remembrance (to the right of the main door). Please speak to Lu, or Lovell Cornwall (who will be providing plants for the time being.)

It's not too late to let the Wardens have your comments about our church life in general - what do we do well, what we could improve, what are our needs as we come out of lockdown & focus on our future development.

Ian Pearce: [ianlu123@hotmail.com](mailto:ianlu123@hotmail.com)

Paul Price: [thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk)

Lu Pearce: [androulapearce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:androulapearce@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Worship at St James in the coming week**

**Wed 5th May:** SS Philip & James, Apostles  
10am Eucharist: The Revd Ann  
Ephesians 1. 3 - 10  
John 14. 1 - 14

**Sunday 9th May:** Sixth Sunday of Easter  
10.30am Parish Eucharist cel: Fr Hugh  
pr: Fr Gordon

*We shall of course be observing all the social-distancing & hygiene rules, and sadly asking everyone to leave the church promptly, resisting the natural urge to stay and chat. We want everyone to stay safe and we understand that not everyone is ready to join us in church just yet - we look forward to better times!*

**Looking further ahead:** On Sunday 13th June we shall be welcoming the Archdeacon of Gloucester, the Venerable Hilary Dawson, as our celebrant and preacher at the 10.30am Parish Eucharist - this will be her first formal visit to St James and we look forward to welcoming her.

**"Put out more Flags"** Is anyone willing to take on the task of making sure that our church flag flies on festivals and other occasions? We have an excellent flagpole (and a variety of flags!) - it seems a shame not to use them. Volunteers please speak to the Churchwardens. THANK YOU!

## **"Thought for the Week": Fr. Gordon**

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

### **Phillip and the Ethiopian**

At his Ascension, Jesus had said that his followers would be his witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. We don't hear much of the disciples after the resurrection but we do know they all bore the fruit of being with Jesus. Phillip went to Samaria and told the story of Jesus there and as he made to leave Samaria, he met a man who might signal this dynamic movement of the gospel.

In those days, the Kingdom of Ethiopia or Nubia was found on the Nile, south of the first cataract at Aswan. The Ethiopian Queen Mother's high - ranking court official had oversight of the riches of a vast royal treasury.

He was a God-fearer, he had been to Jerusalem to worship Israel's God and, as a eunuch, and he wouldn't have been allowed to celebrate the festival. Physically unfit and ritually excluded; He'd travelled all that way and didn't have an entrance ticket when he arrived. All he could do was pray at a distance.

And yet the Lord God still so captivated him that he's reading Isaiah on the way home. Phillip was invited to his chariot and they looked at the words. Phillip simply asked if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian replied how could he understand without a guide?

Phillip talked of Jesus, of the crucifixion and resurrection and suddenly the Ethiopian's physical, social and cultic exclusion is overturned. He is embraced by the God who is revealed in the crucified Jesus, and he's welcomed gladly by Phillip and was so moved that he wanted to be baptised in the nearby water. He then goes on his way rejoicing.

So, a new branch is added to the vine. The vine was a symbol of Israel, pruned and kept pure by the God-given cult and its symbolic world.

The crucified and risen Jesus is the true vine, and new symbols – the empty cross, the empty tomb - speak of dealing with sin and death once and for all, and a free welcome of overflowing love for all who hear and receive it.

After being baptised the Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing as a new branch of the vine, with new life, new responsibilities, and new power. Tradition has it that the Ethiopian went home and started to evangelise Ethiopia, he bore fruit that lasts to this day.

*Fr. Gordon.*

### **A Message from Jackie Hall:**

"Last Sunday I attended morning worship in my old church in York (not in person I may add!) They were about to set up their toddler group on Thursday, so I contacted the person responsible and asked how she was achieving it given Covid restrictions.

They are restricting numbers to ten or thereabouts and using their church hall which is a new building and easily compliant with Covid guidelines. It is clear that they do not have the numbers trooping in as we did.

I'm not sure that restricting numbers would be a good thing in our case; I can foresee the argument "Why them and not us?", and restrictions could backfire when we wanted to open additional places.

So unless things change immeasurably I think we shall attempt to open our doors in September to Chit chat and review the situation for Chatterbox in terms of vaccinations etc and monitor the whole issue closely.

With my best wishes,  
Jackie"

### **FUND-RAISING EVENT : Saturday 5th June**

We plan to hold several stalls, including Tricia's famous Plant Stall, outside the church. In the light of Covid restrictions, we shall not be able to serve refreshments as we cannot guarantee a Covid-secure area.

Would you like to help on one of the stalls, or even arrange one of your own? (Sadly, NO FOOD PRODUCTS, PLEASE.)

Contact Jackie on 07853 217954 or 01452 721062

PS Please pray for fine weather; if it rains, we shall have to cancel the event!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TODAY** - to someone who has been unable to be in church with us for a while: [Barbara Hervey](#).  
Barbara, we wish you many happy returns of the day!